

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Friday, January 18, 2008

The fifth day of the 2008 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 353-358 and Senate Resolutions 722 and 723 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary of the Senate then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

After the morning roll call, Sen. **Jack Hill** of the 4th led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Reverend **James E. Love**, former pastor and current administrator of St. Philip Baptist Church in Swainsboro, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to discuss SR 701, the *Statewide Water Management Plan*, and her concerns regarding the process in which the plan was prepared.

Sen. **Hill** of the 4th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to announce the upcoming schedule of budget hearings next week.

SR 724 and 725 were then read and adopted.

President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st moved that SR 721 be removed from the Finance Committee and be recommitted to the Judiciary Committee. The resolution prohibits the courts from ordering the General Assembly to pass laws to create or increase taxes. There was no objection.

The clerk read SR 701, which is designed to ensure the wise use and responsible conservation of Georgia's water resources.

Sen. **Ross Tolleson** of the 20th took the well to present the resolution and explain the provisions of the Water Management Plan. He yielded to questions from Senators **Ed Harbison** of the 15th, **John Douglas** of the 17th and **Ed Tarver** of 22nd.

Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd took to the well to express his concerns about SR 701 with regard to the short amount of time the resolution was prepared, and that it does not provide adequate water management solutions statewide. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Bill Cowsert** of the 46th.

Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st took the well to address provisions not included in the resolution and to address the importance of helping other counties that are in need of water.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd took the well to voice his support of SR 701.

Sen. **Thomas** of the 2nd took the well to further discuss her concerns with the resolution.

Sen. **Johnson** took the well to urge adoption of the resolution.

Sen. **Tolleson** took the well to close the debate. He stressed that the plan is flexible and will help the state move forward in the management of water resources.

SR 701 was adopted by a vote of 39 to 12.

Sen. **Johnson** moved for immediate transmittal of SR 701 to the House of Representatives.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved the Senate stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Monday, January 28.

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